



**NARAL**  
Pro-Choice America

## **Statement of Policy Opposing the Federal Marriage Amendment**

NARAL Pro-Choice America, Inc. and its sister organization, the NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation, support and protect, as a fundamental right and value, a woman's freedom to make personal decisions regarding the full range of reproductive choices. This right is based upon the fundamental premise that each individual has a right to privacy, the right to be free from governmental interference in the most personal, private areas of one's life, including marriage and the right to choose whether and when to have children.

The United States Supreme Court has recognized a fundamental zone of privacy that protects the individual's right to freedom from governmental interference in the most personal decisions. See *Griswold v. Connecticut*, (striking down a law that criminalized the use of birth control by married couples); *Eisenstadt v. Baird* (extending the zone of privacy to unmarried couples' right to access contraception); *Roe v. Wade* (striking down a Texas law criminalizing abortion); *Lawrence v. Texas* (striking down a Texas law criminalizing sex between persons of the same sex), which cited *Griswold* as its "most pertinent beginning point," among others.

Collectively, these decisions recognize the fundamental principle that the Constitution protects individuals' decisions about marriage, procreation, contraception and family relationships. NARAL Pro-Choice America opposes efforts to amend the Constitution to limit individuals' rights to make personal, private decisions.

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